



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEFENDANT INDICTED FOR FIREARM VIOLATIONS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas man was indicted by a federal grand jury today for violating federal firearms laws..

John R. Meier, 33, who currently is in state custody in Kansas, was charged in a four-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City this morning.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Meier** was in possession of a Taurus .40 caliber pistol beginning on October 20, 2001 and continuing until October 24, 2001. Possession of any firearm at that time would have been illegal, Graves explained, due to **Meier's** prior felony convictions. Count Two of the federal indictment alleges **Meier** was in possession of that firearm while a fugitive from justice. Count Three alleges that **Meier** transported stolen firearms, the Taurus .40 caliber pistol and a Bushmaster .223 caliber rifle, from Nebraska to Missouri. Count Four of the federal indictment alleges that **Meier** possessed the Taurus .40 caliber pistol in relation to a crime of violence, that is, unlawful flight to avoid prosecution.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations and are not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Linda Sybrant. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow